

Serial No.: 09/976,604

Art Unit: 2143

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***AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION***

Please amend the specification as indicated hereafter. It is believed that the following amendments and additions add no new matter to the present application.

***In the Specification:***

Please amend the specification by adding the following new paragraphs after line 4 on page 5 as follows (where underlining “\_” denotes additions and double brackets “[[]]” denotes deletions):

FIG. 12 is a flow diagram of an exemplary embodiment of grouping multiple devices of the plurality of devices into a plurality of tiers within a digital network.

FIG. 13 is a flow diagram of an exemplary embodiment of generating an alert after determining that a first plurality of devices is not the same as the second plurality of devices.

Please amend the specification by adding the following new paragraphs after line 13 on page 36 as follows (where underlining “\_” denotes additions and double brackets “[[]]” denotes deletions):

Referring to FIG. 12, devices 1210, 1215, 1220, 1225, 1230, 1235, 1240, 1245, and 1250 are grouped into tiers 1255, 1260, and 1265.

Referring to FIG. 13, in block 1310, a hierarchy of first plurality of devices and second plurality of devices is determined. In block 1320, a determination is made as to whether the first plurality of devices is the same as the second plurality of devices. In block 1330, an alert is generated if the first plurality of devices is not the same as the second plurality of devices.